Remarks by Mark Fleeton, CEO
Development Gateway Foundation

http://www.dgfoundation.org/
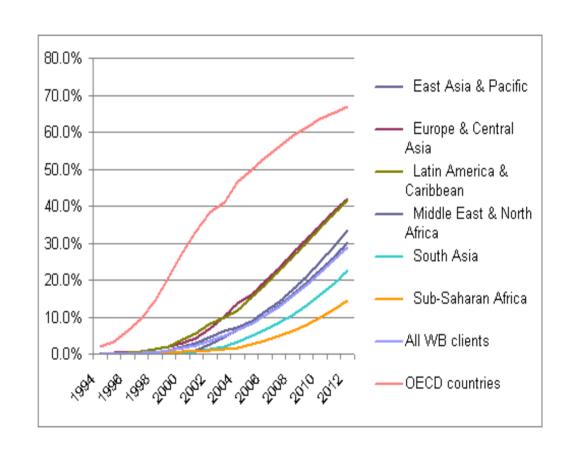
USAID Global Development Commons Forum

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

Washington, D.C.

Context of ICT for Development

- In late 2005/early 2006, the number of Internet users exceeded1 billion

  -- and, for the first time, more than half of these were from developing countries

- By 2012, two-thirds of Internet users or 1.4 billion will be from developing countries

Who We Are

- Independent World Bank spin-off, launched in 2000

- Based in Washington DC with about 60 staff globally

- FY 07 budget: USD 10 million

- Donors include Australia, China, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Microsoft, Intel, CSIS, Hewlett Foundation and the World Bank

- Development Gateway International based in Brussels

Use information technology to avoid 'reinventing the wheel' in development

Focus on aid and development effectiveness

Two main areas:

- Strengthening key country systems (procurement, financial management, statistics)
- Knowledge sharing

Main audience: Development practitioners

Main DGF programs:

- E-procurement: USD 700 billion advertised in 24 languages on dgMarket

- Aid management: Aid Management Platform implemented in 8 countries (Bolivia, Burundi, Burkina Faso, DRC, Ethiopia, Mali, Montenegro and Tanzania)

- Online communities of practice: 29 knowledge-sharing communities with 3 major language initiatives (Arabic, Chinese and French)

- Network of 48 country and regional gateways

- Governments are ill-suited to work directly in the GDC

- Be as open as possible. 'Wikipedia' models are best

- Don't over-strategize, but look for strategic opportunities

- Focus or get "lost in space"

- Avoid the "build it and they will come" approach

- Minimize risks and costs through open source software, open standards, and common systems

- Be serious about M&E but realistic about 'outcomes-based' M&E

- Get over the ICT prejudices